



CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PATTY JUDGE
LT. GOVERNOR

February 5, 2010

Via email: marcella.frevert@legis.state.ia.us
Representative Marcella R. Frevert
Chair
Administrative Rules Review Committee

Dear Representative Frevert,

I write you to express my strong support for the Environmental Protection Commission's proposed final rule to amend the State's anti-degradation policy and new implementation procedures (ARC 8466B). I hope you will support it, too.

As you know, the final rule follows a lengthy public process, one that included the input of more than 900 Iowa citizens and thirteen public hearings. Clearly, there is an evolving consensus in Iowa that we can and must do everything reasonably possible to protect our waters, streams and lakes.

The proposed final rule stems from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' obligation under the federal Clean Water Act to develop and adopt a statewide anti-degradation policy and to identify procedures for implementing the policy.

In Iowa, we are blessed with the most productive farmland in the world. Our state is bordered, on either end, by two of the greatest rivers on our continent. Many rivers and streams originate in our State. We have an obligation to be effective stewards of those water supplies as they progress from one community to the next, from our state to other states and regions in our nation. The proposed final rule will provide a strong platform from which this stewardship can be effectively exercised.

While the implementation of this rule will not involve any additional cost to the State of Iowa, it will potentially yield enormous benefits—both to the assured enjoyment of our waterways, and also in terms of economic development to those areas of our state that host citizens who travel there for recreational purposes.



In particular, these standards will provide a valuable tool for the State to ensure that waters are fishable and swimmable to the fullest extent practicable. Additionally, they will help guarantee that Iowa's water is safe for our citizens and that water resources contribute to their best beneficial uses.

Of particular interest and importance is the fact that the proposed final rule provides for a special—Tier 2.5—protection for "high quality waters" that have been identified as outstanding Iowa waters. High quality waters, those of exceptional recreational or ecological significance, must be maintained and protected.

It is my sincerest hope that members of the Administrative Rules and Review Committee will enthusiastically support these rules and will not stand in the way of Iowa's progress on this important front.

I look forward to continuing our work together in protecting Iowa's environment and preserving our natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chet Culver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chet" and last name "Culver" clearly distinguishable.

Chet Culver
Governor